

At around 1:30 am on November 27, 2019, an explosion and subsequent fire occurred at the TPC Group facility in Port Neches, Texas. The explosion was felt throughout the community. OSC Adam Adams and EPA contractors mobilized to the site in the early hours of November 27, 2019 to join in Unified Command with Jefferson County, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and TPC. EPA performed air monitoring beginning at 6 am on November 27th. EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology aircraft was activated and began flights over the site and plume at approximately 0800 that day. A secondary explosion occurred at the facility about 2:30 pm on the 27th, after which OSCs Philip Rouse and Matt Loesel were activated to the scene. The evacuation zone was extended by the local authorities from 0.5 miles to 4 miles following the second explosion. EPA has continued air monitoring activities since the 27th both handheld and via ASPECT. Due to material which overtopped the facility's outfall, EPA conducted water sampling as well along the drainage path. A public Story Map and web site have been set up at [HYPERLINK "https://response.epa.gov/south4groupfire"]. EPA will remain in Unified Command until all of the fires are extinguished, air monitoring results show no continued impact, and the drainage path presents no further threat. EPA is part of Unified Command and working with approximately 20 different agencies in response to this incident.